

28 April 2025

Post-16 SEND Transport Policy 2026/27 – public consultation

Newcastle City Council is proposing to make some changes to the way that we support post-16 learners and their families to get from home to school and back again each day. These proposed changes only affect those children and young people with **special educational needs and or disabilities** (SEND).

There are three main reasons for suggesting changes. Firstly, we have been looking at what other local areas do and also listening to our families about how things could be better. We all want our young people to live an enjoyable, successful and full life when the time is right for them. We want our young adults in the city to be as independent as they can be; we want them to be able to experience the many exciting things that living and working in a city like Newcastle, in the wonderful north-east, has to offer. A big part of this is to be able to get around independently and use different types of transport easily and confidently.

Secondly, there are lots of young people who are not yet ready to travel independently. To help with this we can arrange independent travel training for young people, we can organise for taxis or buses to take post-16 learners to school or college, and we can provide money to families who want to take their children to school themselves. We have been looking at what other local areas do, and we think we can make further improvements to what we do. This will help more young people to be independent travellers and also give more families the flexibility to help them to get their own children to school each day.

Thirdly, we currently help some of our young people with SEND aged 16-19 to get to and from school or college. This means that many of these young people do not have to pay anything to go to school or college. The council does not have to do this but we have been doing it for many years. This costs the council a lot of money (well over a million pounds each year). We all know that times are tough and money is tight. This is true for the council as well. The council has to make decisions all the time on what things it spends the money it has on. We are very sad to have to think about changing our free offer of support to 16-19 year-olds with SEND, but we feel that we simply have no choice.

We want to hear what you think about our proposals. The draft policy statement for 2026/27 can be found on our [Local Offer](http://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/send-local-offer) website (www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/send-local-offer). This document will also tell you about the ways that you can tell us you think about the draft policy statement.

If you can't find the draft policy statement then email us at SENDTPConsultation@newcastle.gov.uk or call us on (0191) 277 4646.

We want to hear from you before the deadline which is **5pm on Sunday 25 May 2025**.

We look forward to reading and listening to your views.

Best wishes

Mark Patton

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